



Neighborhood Watch Monthly Newsletter

April 2008

It's your community – Get involved!

Teens Texting While Driving

For most of us driving is a part of our everyday routine. We usually don't think twice about getting into the car and what dangers face us on the road. The truth is many dangers face us and more are surfacing. Traffic accidents are continuously the highest offense that the Sandy City Police Department deals with and as a Police Department we are seeing an alarming trend of teen's texting while driving. This is very concerning to us.

Among teens, cell phone use is widespread. In fact, according to World Technology Kids', seventy-five percent of 15 to 17 year olds carry cell phones. Unfortunately, sometimes our teens aren't making very safe decisions in regards to the use of their cell phones that they carry. In particular, texting while driving poses many safety issues.

Recent teen driving tragedies involving text messaging while driving are evidence that driving distractions are becoming as prevalent as drinking and driving in terms of inhibiting teens' driving abilities. According to recent teen driving research by SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), instant and text messaging while driving leads the list as the biggest distraction while driving for teens.

Frank Drews, an assistant professor in the psychology department at the University of Utah explains a person talking on a cell phone when driving is four times more likely to get into an accident than someone driving without distraction from the phone; for someone "texting" when driving, the likelihood is six times higher.

In Sandy City, cell phone use while driving is a secondary offense. This means that if you break a traffic law at the same time as you are driving while using your cell phone, you will be given a citation for both offenses.

It is important that we teach our teens about the laws, safety and consequences of using cell phones while driving. However, we also need to be willing to be the example. A great website to use when talking to your teens about driving is teendriving.com. We all need to do our part in helping to prevent traffic accidents.

Amy Bryant
Crime Prevention Specialist
Sandy City Police Department

March 2008

Sandy City Offenses	Flat Iron	Canyon	Dimple Dell	Bluff	Auto Mall	South Towne	Jordan	Historic	Total
Aggravated Assault	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	6
Alcohol Offenses	8	5	1	1	12	0	18	22	67
Animal Problems	1	2	0	1	0	0	3	1	8
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	5	2	2	2	3	2	10	12	38
Death Calls	1	1	0	0	4	0	1	4	11
Disorderly	0	0	0	0	6	0	10	8	24
Domestics	7	6	2	1	8	2	9	22	57
Drug Offenses	1	5	0	3	8	4	45	30	96
Forgeries & Frauds	3	5	0	0	6	3	9	11	37
Homicides	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Problems	6	4	0	3	13	2	24	22	74
Kidnappings	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Property Offenses	15	9	5	3	27	8	35	32	134
Protective Orders	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Sex offenses	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	10	20
Simple Assault	12	6	1	0	12	3	13	32	79
Suspicious Calls	3	0	0	0	3	2	7	3	18
Theft	15	9	0	1	24	36	22	58	165
Threats	4	3	0	1	7	0	6	5	26
Traffic Crashes	16	9	4	1	36	14	48	35	163
Trespassing	1	2	0	1	4	1	6	5	20
Vehicle Burglary	7	9	5	3	8	7	12	15	66
Vehicle Theft	0	2	0	0	3	4	10	11	30
Warrant Service	2	3	0	1	9	2	20	26	63
Weapons Offense	0	2	0	0	5	0	1	1	9
Total	108	88	20	22	207	90	316	367	1,218

Flat Iron- 1300 E to the East border, North border to 9400 S; **Canyon-** 1300 E to the East border, 9400 S to the Gully; **Dimple Dell-** 1300 E to the East border, 10350 S to 11400 S; **Bluff-** 1300 E to the East border, 11400 S to South border; **South Towne-** West border to 1300 E, Gully to 10600 S; **Auto Mall-** West border to 1300 E, 10600 S to South border; **Historic-** West border to 1300 E, North border to 9000 S; **Jordan-** West border to 1300 E, 9000 S to the Gully

Upcoming Quarterly Training Meeting

Thursday, April 17th 7:00 PM

Police Training Room (City Hall, East Entrance)